

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS PROPERTY



Senator Dave Cogdill, Chair

Senators Benoit, Calderon, Dutton and Padilla Named to Select Committee on Surplus Property

(May 27, 2009) -- Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Modesto) today announced the appointments to the Senate Select Committee on Surplus Property. Senator John J. Benoit (R-Bermuda Dunes), Senator Ron Calderon (D-Montebello), Senator Bob Dutton (R-Rancho Cucamonga) and Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) will all serve on the committee.

"As we examine ways to maximize the state's land assets, Senators Benoit, Calderon, Dutton and Padilla will bring a wide array of skills and expertise to the table," said Senator Cogdill, who serves as the committee's chair and previously owned a successful real estate appraisal business. "While the sale of surplus property is not a panacea to the state's current fiscal crisis, it plays a significant role as a long-term budget solution."

The committee will:

- Consider the current land use regulations associated with each property.
- Examine the current operational costs and deferred maintenance costs.
- Review the method by which the state appraises properties.
- Conduct an examination of the pros and cons of selling existing fee-title to lands versus purchasing conservation easements.
- Provide necessary oversight to facilitate the sale or lease of surplus property.

"I'm honored to be a part of this Select Committee. In this fiscal crisis, we should seek to identify as many sources of non-tax revenue as possible, and identify areas of government to streamline. Selling surplus properties will provide revenue to the state and place the property into the entrepreneurial hands of private citizens," said Senator Benoit.

"Having served as a real estate professional for almost four decades, I look forward to helping this important committee make wise decisions in selling the state's surplus property. There is no reason for the state to hold unnecessary property, regardless of the state of the economy," said Senator Dutton. "This is one of numerous efforts that will help stimulate California's struggling economy."

"California is home to some of the country's most valuable assets. If we are to consider selling some of the state's surplus properties, we must first have in place a deliberate and thorough review process. I look forward to being part of it," said Senator Padilla.

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